

REMARKS

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4, and 10-19 contain allowable subject matter. To move this application more quickly to allowance, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the salient portions of claims 2 and 3.

Turning to the second § 112 rejections, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to state a motor assembly throughout to make the language consistent within the claim. In claim 4, a typographical error was corrected, replacing the word "the" with the word "an" before the words "axial extension". In claim 6, references to a removable gear portion and removable hub portion have been worded simply "gear portion" and "hub portion" and this claim revised to make it clear that the gear portion and hub portion are removed as part of the gear segment discussed in claim 1. Also, the rim portion should have been mentioned in this claim to provide antecedent basis for its reference in claim 7. Consequently, the Applicants have added reference to the rim portion in claim 6.

With respect to claims 9-19, the Applicants believe that reference to a first hub half, first and second hub halves, hub halves, and similar recitations are sufficiently clear for one of ordinary skill and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's objection. Nevertheless, to make the claims more consistent, claims 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 have been reworded to refer to a first half of said hub, a second half of said hub, or when the first and second halves are referred to together, the first and second halves of said hub.

In claim 10, to be consistent with claim 6, the word "removable" was removed before the words "rim portion".

With respect to claims 14-16 and the references to a lip, a pair of lips, said lips, a first pair of lips and a second pair of lips, the Applicants believe that these limitations have antecedent basis based on the context within the claims and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection. For consistency sake, in claim 14, line 2, the word "it" has been replaced with the words "said lip". Also, in claim 15, line 5, the words "pair of" have been inserted before the word "lips". According to the Examiner's suggestion, in lines 2 and 4 of claim 16, the pair of lips associated with the second half of the hub have been referred to as "a second pair of lips".

Turning to the substantive rejections, the rejection of claims 1-19 is believed to be moot based on the amendment of claim 1.

With respect to claim 20 and those claims that depend from it, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that Vincenzi anticipates these claims. In particular, Vincenzi does not disclose an operator having a framework that defines a clearance adapted to insertably receive the axle of a door system therein. In Vincenzi, the operator framework is located well above the axle, and a chain is used to connect the operator to a gear attached to the axle. The Applicants' invention offers a significant improvement by providing a much more compact design without an exposed chain. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20-23.

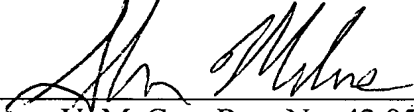
With respect to the obviousness rejection of claim 24 based on Vincenzi in view of Mullet, the Applicants respectfully disagree because one of ordinary skill would not modify Vincenzi to include a pivoting operator. Vincenzi's use of a chain to connect its motor to a gear mounted on the axle would discourage one of ordinary skill from attempting to pivot its operator motor.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitation that the motor assembly include a drive gear that contacts an interior surface of the means for interconnecting the motor assembly to the axle. In light of this amendment, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Finally, with respect to the rejection of claims 27-29 as anticipated by Mullet, the Applicants respectfully disagree because Mullet does not disclose a spring engageable with the motor for providing a torsional force thereto. The coil spring 401 cited by the Examiner is used to drive a peg that locks the motor in an extended position. This spring does not engage the motor, nor does it apply a torsional force thereto. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The Applicants believe that claims 1 and 4-29 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice of the same. If any issues remain, however, the Applicant would appreciate a telephone call to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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